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April 19,2007

Via ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: *Ex Parte* Presentation by Southern Communications Services, Inc. FCC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-419, DA 05-269, DA 05-143

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 18,2007 Holly Henderson and I, on behalf of Southern Communications Services, Inc. d/b/a SouthernLINC Wireless ("SouthernLINC") met with Nicholas Alexander, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, to discuss the status of the above-referenced petitions for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC").

During the meeting, SouthernLINC respectfully urged the Commission to grant its ETC petitions as quickly as possible. SouthernLINC distributed the attached presentation at the meeting.

As required by Section 1.1206(b), this *exparte* notification is being filed electronically for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceeding, and a copy is being submitted to the attendees of the meetings. Please contact me at (202) 342-8602, if you have any questions regarding this filing.

KELLEY DRYE &WARREN LLP

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary April 19,2007 Page 2

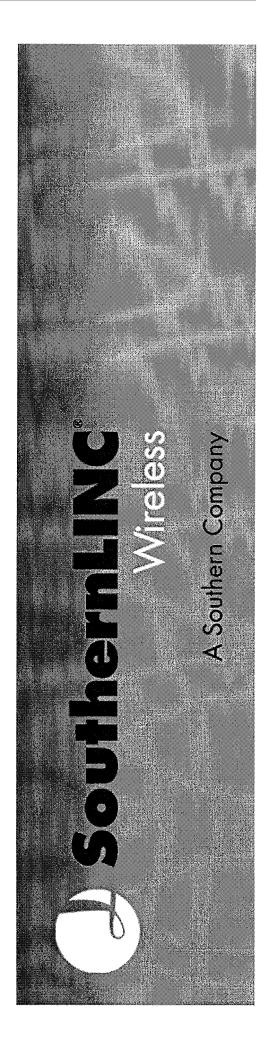
Respectfully submitted,

Todd D. Daubert

Counselfor SouthernLINC Wireless

Attachments

cc: Nicholas Alexander (via e-mail)



Petitions for **<**TC Designation in Alabama, Florida and Georgia

Docket √wmber WC 96-45 April 2007

SouthernLINC Seeks ETC Designation in Alabama, Florida and Georgia

- On September 14,2004, SouthernLINC filed petitions requesting ETC designation in rural and non-rural areas in Alabama, Florida and Georgia.
- SouthernLINC subsequently narrowed the geographic scope of the requested designations in order to eliminate any concern about the potential for creamskimming.



SouthernLINC Serves a Unique and Important Role in its Coverage Area

In recognition of the unique and important role that SouthernLINC -- a regional wireless carrier -- serves in Alabama, Florida and Georgia, the following Congressmen recently urged the Commission to designate it as an ETC:

- Jo Bonner (R AL)
- Nathan Deal (R GA)
- Charlie Norwood (R GA)
- Mike Rogers
 David Scott
 (R AL)
 (D GA)

For the same reason, Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) recently urged the Commission to designate SouthernLINC as an ETC in Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

A Southern Company

Wireless

SouthernLINC Provides Critical Communications Capabilities During Emergency Situations

15 named hurricanes have struck its service territory since SouthernLINC began operating in 1995.

SouthernLINC often was the only available means of communications during these emergencies.

• In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, SouthernLINC in many instances provided the only immediate means of communicating in Mississippi and Alabama.



SouthernLINC Provides Vital Communications Capabilities to Emergency, Government and Utility Personnel

SouthernLINC is the wireless service provider to the state of Alabama and to many government agencies in Georgia.

SouthernLINC provides critical wireless service throughout its service territory to:

- first responders and emergency personnel; and
- utility personnel, which facilitates the continued availability of power during emergencies.



A Southern Company

SouthernLINC Has Always Been Strongly Committed to Serving Rural America and Underserved Consumers

SouthernLINC has long had a strong commitment to rural America and underserved communities and consumers.

In many rural and underserved communities, SouthernLINC is the only wireless service provider.



SouthernLINC Has Satisfied all of the Statutory Eligibility Requirements

The ETC petitions included certifications that SouthernLINC:

- is not subject to the jurisdiction of the relevant state agencies; and
- offers all supported services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and a resale of another carrier's services.

The ETC petitions included detailed descriptions of:

- how SouthernLINC advertises the availability and pricing of the supported services; and
- the geographic service area for which ETC designation is requested.



Requirements of the ETC Designation Order Southern LINC Has Satisfied the

Sou_hernLINC has demonstraged hat i_:

- providing service to all customers within its proposed service area; • has a commitment and ability to provide services, including
- will remain functional in mergency situations;
- satisfies consumer protection and service quality standards; and
- offers local usage comparable to that offered by he incuribent LEC.

Sou hernLINC unders ands ha it may be required o provide equal access all a her ETCs in the designated service are relinquish heir designations.



A Southern Company

Designation of SouthernLINC as an ETC is in the Public Interest

SouthernLINC's universal service offering will provide a variety of benefits to customers, including consumer choice and advantageous service offerings.

- Universal service support will enable SouthernLINC to construct facilities to improve quality of service and extend telephone service to people who have no choice of telephone provider.
- SouthernLINC will use support to offer a basic universal service package to subscribers who are eligible for Lifeline support.
- The mobility of SouthernLINC's service will provide further benefits to consumers, such as access to emergency services in geographically isolated areas.
- Designation of SouthernLINC has an ETC also potentially will allow its customers to pay fewer toll charges and provide customer access to premium services.



Designation of SouthernLINC as an ETC is in the Public Interest

SouthernLINC complies with the CTIA Consumer Code for wireless services.

On an annual basis, SouthernLINC will provide the Commission with the number of:

- consumer complaints per 1,000 mobile handsets on an annual basis; and
- requests for service from potential customers were unfulfilled for the past year.



Summary

SouthernLINC respectfully urges the Commission to grant its ETC Petitions as quickly as possible.

SouthernLINC has satisfied the eligibility requirements of the Act and the ETC Designation Order.

Designation of SouthernLINC as an ETC is in the public interest.

